WINDS IN GUSEV: JOINT MARS EXPRESS AND MER OBSERVATIONS Ronald Greeley and the HRSC and Athena Teams



 Unique opportunity to study the formation and evolution of wind-related features

GUSEV CRATER WIND FEATURES



CHANGES WITH TIME

January 16, 2004

HRSC

September 26, 2003

THEMIS





HRSC

February 1, 2004



 \star Indicates Spirit landing site

GUSEV CRATER CHANGES

THEMIS V07909002 26 September 2003



HRSC Orbit 024 16 January 2004



THEMIS V07909002 - 26 September 2003



THEMIS V07909002 26 September 2003



HRSC Orbit 024 16 January 2004



HRSC Orbit 024 - 16 January 2004



JOINT HRSC-MER OBSERVATIONS GUSEV CRATER



 \star Indicates Spirit landing site



MI

Sol 39

INSIDE

Shadow,



OUTSIDE



MI

Sol 52

GUSEV - SPIRIT SITE



MESOSCALE WINDS AT 14m HEIGHT

Local time: 1525



MOLA topography

SOLAR CONJUNCTION "STAND DOWN"





CHANGES DETECTED















MICROSCOPIC IMAGER RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS FROM MEX-MER OBSERVATIONS

- Diurnal winds probably more important than regional winds for orientation of aeolian features
- Orientations in Gusev are consistent with mesoscale model predictions
- Dark variable features can result from removal of very small amounts of dust (e.g., Thomas et al., 1984)





- Dust "jostling" by sand grains also can lead to changes in albedo
- Dust devils are effective in removal and/or repositioning of dust